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an outer textile casing formed of a tough, chew-resistant material defining a shape in the form of a small article for luring or being fetched by the domestic animal and comprising a high-pile component attached to a backing material to form an artificial fleece, the material formed in two layers sewn together at the edges with the high-pile component outwardly; and an effective amount of a microbe-cidal agent applied to the textile casing, wherein the microbe-cidal agent is non-toxic and non-carcinogenic when ingested by domestic animals at the levels used in the amusement article.

Kindly add the following new claims 59-65 as follows:

59. (New) A textile-based amusement article according to claim 56 wherein the microbe-cidal agent is non-toxic and non-carcinogenic when ingested by domestic animals at the levels used in the amusement article.

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3 ~~60~~. (New) A textile-based amusement article according to claim ~~45~~ wherein the outer textile fabric is treated with a compound to impart at least one of low surface energy, non-hydrophilic properties, antistatic properties and antiadhesion properties.

4 ~~61~~. (New) A textile-based amusement article according to claim ~~45~~ wherein the outer textile casing comprises an outer fabric layer and the microbe-inhibiting agent or property comprises a microbe-impenetrable laminate on an inner surface of the outer fabric layer.

5 ~~62~~. (New) A textile-based amusement article according to claim ~~61~~ wherein the microbe-impenetrable laminate comprises a thermoplastic film or latex polymer.

6 ~~63~~. (New) A textile-based amusement article according to claim ~~62~~ wherein the microbe-cidal agent is applied to or incorporated into the thermoplastic film or latex polymer.

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